

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 01075 031810Z
ACTION EUR-12

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /069 W
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AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 1075

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, EEC, BE, SP
SUBJECT: TINDEMANS VISIT TO SPAIN, JANUARY 1-2, 1977

A. 76 BRUSSELS 4335 B. BRUSSELS 927 (NOTAL) C. MADRID 808

SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS, ACCOMPANIED BY FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLAND, PARTICIPATED IN MADRID MEETING OF EUROPEAN UNION OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS JAN . 1-2. TINDEMANS, WHO IS PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN POPULAR PARTY ("PARTI POPULAIRE EUROPEEN" - REFTEL A) WENT TO SPAIN IN THAT CAPACITY, NOT AS PRIME MINISTER, THOUGH HE SAW THE KING AND PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ. HIS MAIN PURPOSE WERE TO ENCOURAGE THE FORMATION OF A VIABLE, DEMOCRATIC SPANISH CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY, AND TO FURTHER THE UNCLASSIFIED

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GOALS OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT IN EUROPE.
END SUMMARY.

1. TINDEMANS' TRIP HAS BEEN WIDELY REPORTED IN THE BELGIAN PRESS AS SEVERAL BELGIAN NEWSPAPER MEN ACCOMPANIED HIM. HIGHLIGHTS OF HIS PUBLIC STATEMENT INCLUDED HIS HOMAGE TO AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT

AND TO ALL BASICALLY DEMOCRATIC FORCES IN SPAIN FOR THEIR EFFORTS TO TRANSFORM SPAIN BY PEACEFUL MEANS TO DEMOCRACY. HE STRESSED THE THEME OF EUROPEAN UNIFICATION AND SOLIDARITY FOR ITS OWN SAKE, AS WELL AS TO REINFORCE LIBERTY, WHICH SHOULD LEAD TO A EUROPE WHERE ALL INTEREST GROUPS WOULD HAVE THEIR PLACE AND COULD BE HEARD SIMULTANEOUSLY. HE UNDERLINED THE ROLE OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC IN HIS VISION OF A FREE AND UNITED EUROPE BY NOTING THAT CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS WERE THE ONLY POLITICAL FORCE IN EUROPE WHICH HAS SUCCEEDED IN CONVERTING FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES INTO A BODY OF DOCTRINE. THE TASK AHEAD FOR CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS, ACCORDING TO TINDEMANS, IS TO ESTABLISH SUFFICIENT POLITICAL FORCE TO REALIZE THEIR DOCTRINAL GOALS. HE PROMISED HIS SUPPORT FOR SPAIN'S CANDIDACY FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AS SOON AS THE DEMOCRATIZATION PROCESS HAS BEEN COMPLETED. HE PAID HIS RESPECTS TO SPANISH CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS FOR THEIR CLANDESTINE STRUGGLE TO PREPARE FOR A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY IN SPAIN.

2. TURNING TO THE ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN POPULAR PARTY IN THE NEAR FUTURE, TINDEMANS OUTLINED A TRIPLE TASK: (A) ESTABLISH A POLITICAL PROGRAM IN PREPARATION FOR THE DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT; (B) CREATE A NEW, YOUNG AND DYNAMIC PARTY STRUCTURE AND PURSUE COMMON EFFORT WITHIN THE EUROPEAN UNION OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS TO REINFORCE THE WIDEST POSSIBLE DEMOCRACY IN EUROPE; AND (C) CONVINCE PUBLIC OPINION OF THE VALUE OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES IN UNCLASSIFIED

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ORDER TO BUILD THE FUTURE TOGETHER.

3. TINDEMANS SURPRISED THE BELGIAN PRESS BY SPEAKING IN SPANISH TO HIS SPANISH HOSTS. HIS KNOWLEDGE OF SPANISH, IN ADDITION TO FRENCH, DUTCH, ENGLISH AND GERMAN, HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY SURFACED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
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Subject: TINDEMANS VISIT TO SPAIN, JANUARY 1-2, 1977 A. 76 BRUSSELS 4335 B. BRUSSELS 927 (NOTAL) C. MADRID 808 SUMMARY:
PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS, ACCCOMPANIED BY
TAGS: PFOR, BE, SP, EEC, (TINDEMANS, LEO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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